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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE TECH CENTER 1600/2200

Applicant(s): Friddle *et al.* Group Art Unit: 1647  
Application No.: 10/054,680  
Filed: 01/22/02 Examiner: C. J. Nichols  
Title: Novel Human Ion Exchanger Proteins and Polynucleotides Encoding the Same Atty. Docket No.: LEX-0301-USA

9/a  
M.G.  
8/24/03

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
**DATED JANUARY 22, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on January 22, 2003 (Paper No. 6), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the objections and rejections in Paper No. 6 in the same order in which they were originally raised.

A Petition for an Extension of Time of three months to and including July 22, 2003, and authorization to deduct the fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) from Applicants' representatives Deposit Account are included. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees in addition to the fee for the extension of time are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.